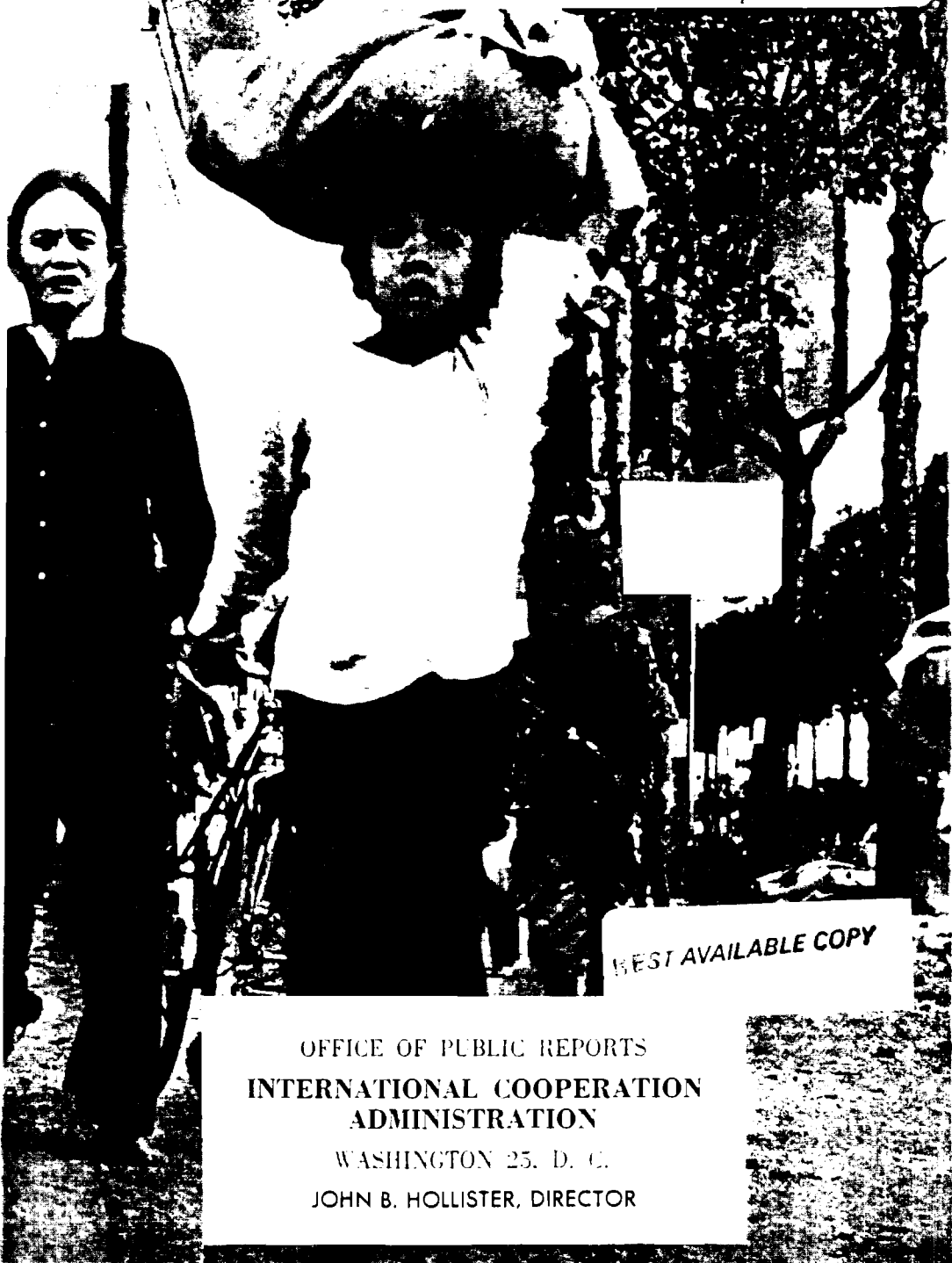


N TIME OF TROUBLE

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC REPORTS
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
JOHN B. HOLLISTER, DIRECTOR

EMERGENCY AID PROGRAMS to stricken countries conducted, between August 1, 1953, and June 30, 1955, by the Foreign Operations Administration which was succeeded on June 30, 1955, by the International Cooperation Administration.

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IN TIME OF TROUBLE

The White House
July 29, 1954

"The American people have followed with sympathy and compassion reports of the widespread human suffering which has already resulted from serious flood conditions in large areas of Central and Eastern Europe. Reports indicate that serious damage to homes and crops has occurred all along the Danube, and has been particularly heavy in Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia. Moreover, there has been considerable hardship and destruction of property along rivers in East Germany flowing north. The full extent of these losses cannot be known for several weeks.

"In West Germany and Austria, U.S. authorities have extended emergency assistance in an effort to alleviate the immediate situation. The United States is prepared to extend such aid as is feasible throughout the flood areas. We stand ready to make food available to lighten the burden on flood victims who are struggling to rehabilitate themselves . . ."

These are the words of the President of the United States.

This is only one of the many such statements which have announced that the people of the United States, through their government, have offered help to another country in time of trouble.

First Foreign Aid

On May 8, 1812, for the first time in its history, the United States Government appropriated money for material aid to a foreign country in a time of emergency. Venezuela had suffered a disastrous earthquake and the U.S. Congress voted \$50,000 to purchase medicines and other relief goods to ease the sufferings of the Venezuelan people.

In 1847, the United States Government sent naval ships to Ireland and Scotland carrying contributions of the American people for the starving peoples in those countries. Again in 1871, the United States Government sent naval ships loaded with contributions of the American people to France and Germany during a time of famine.

On March 3, 1899, Congress voted \$100,000 for Cuba to relieve the suffering caused by the Spanish-American War.

On May 13, 1902, the United States went to the aid of the island of Martinique where an eruption of Mount Pelee had caused widespread damage. Congress voted \$200,000 to aid the volcano victims.

In 1907, material relief was sent to the island of Jamaica where a serious earthquake had occurred.

In 1909, the then sizable amount of \$800,000 was sent to relieve the suffering of the Italian people who lived in the area devastated by the Messina earthquake.

U. S. Aid

In the years that have followed, the United States Government, on numerous occasions, has offered its aid to those who suffer as a result of natural disasters and wars.

During and following World War I, relief work was undertaken by Herbert Hoover after the invasion of Belgium in 1914, carried on in the Central and Eastern States of Europe after the Armistice, and concluded with the end of the famine in Soviet Russia in 1923.

Congressional Enactments

After World War II, the United States responded immediately to the desperate need of the people in Europe and the Far East for help to restore their ruined homes and economies. In a series of enactments, the Congress made food, clothing, fuel and rehabilitation materials available through the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (to which the U.S. contributed \$2.3 billion or 73 per cent), the post-UNRRA and



Sufferers, such as this innocent victim of the heavy fighting in Saigon, receive help in the form of food, shelter and clothing from the people of the United States.

Interim Aid programs, and programs of relief to the occupied areas of Germany, Austria, Japan and Korea, including the \$4 billion appropriation made by the U.S. for Government and Relief in Occupied Areas (GARIOA).

Through these measures millions of people were saved from disease, starvation and death, and whole nations were rescued from chaos and collapse.

Special Legislative Programs

Emergency programs have been handled by many different offices of the Federal Government. The most recent control-office for such programs is the International Cooperation Administration which succeeded the Foreign Operations Administration June 30, 1955.

When the Foreign Operations Administration was created on August 1, 1953, included in its program was the function of carrying out emergency programs for relief and rehabilitation as directed by the President. These emergency programs are now being carried on by the International Cooperation Administration.

Public Law 77

The first of three special legislative programs designed to simplify administration of U.S. assistance to foreign countries in time of trouble was Public Law 77.

The basic feature of Public Law 77 was that during the period of its existence—June 25, 1953 to June 30, 1954—the Commodity Credit Corporation of the Department of Agriculture was authorized to make available up to 700,000 tons of wheat for transfer to the Government of Pakistan to alleviate starvation and mass suffering occasioned by famine conditions: an additional amount up to 300,000 tons might be made available as a reserve supply, if the President should so determine.

Famine Relief

Public Law 216, sometimes referred to as the "Famine Relief Act," was approved by the Congress on August 7, 1953. The law enabled the President to furnish emergency assistance on behalf of the people of the United States to friendly peoples in meeting famine or other urgent relief requirements. Libya, Bolivia and Jordan benefitted with food shipments during times of emergency under this law which expired March 15, 1954.

Public Law 480

Public Law 480 was approved by the Congress on July 10, 1954. It terminates June 30, 1957. Title II of this law covers Famine Relief and other Assistance. Public Law 480 enables the President to furnish emer-

gency assistance to 1) any nations friendly to the United States and 2) to friendly but needy populations without regard to the friendliness of their government.

Some of the countries which have benefitted under this law are Bolivia, Honduras, Italy, Libya, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Germany.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #1

PAKISTAN FAMINE

American Wheat Helps Avert Famine Which Threatens Millions

"On June 26, 1953, the S. S. Anchorage Victory began a voyage from Baltimore, Md., to Karachi, Pakistan. In its hold were 9,870 tons of wheat—a gift of the American people to the friendly Pakistani people who were threatened with famine as a result of two successive years of drought."

News Release
Nov. 5, 1953

Special Mission

In the spring of 1953, when the famine condition became intolerable, the Government of Pakistan requested emergency aid from the United States. The President sent a special mission to Pakistan to observe the situation, ascertain the need and recommend the manner in which the emergency was to be met. Once the Mission returned and reported to the President, he immediately sent a message to Congress recommending a grant of wheat to Pakistan.

Congress sped through the special legislation and on June 25, 1953, President Eisenhower signed the Pakistan Wheat Aid Act (Public Law 77). Within 24 hours the first shipment of wheat left Baltimore.

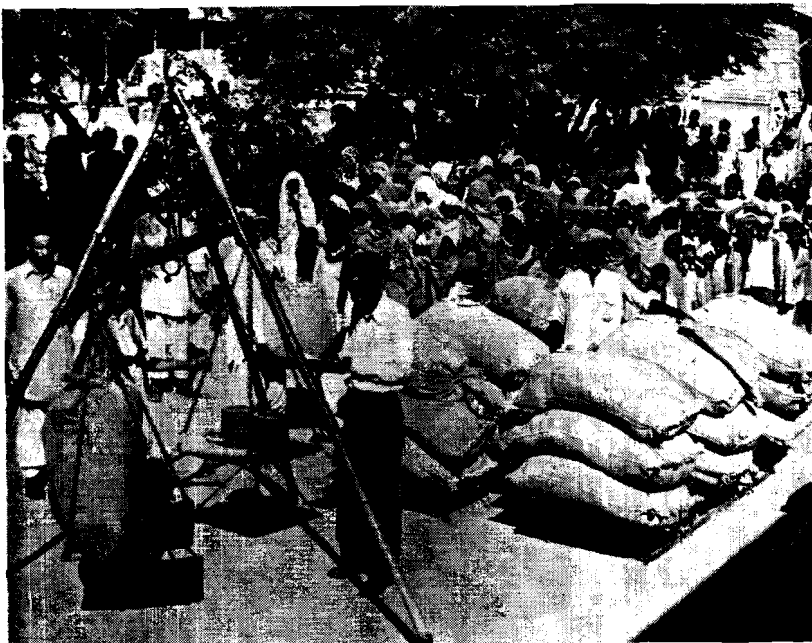
By the Wheat Aid Act, the Commodity Credit Corporation was authorized to make available to Pakistan 700,000 long tons of surplus wheat on a grant basis. An additional amount up to 300,000 tons might be made available as a reserve supply, if the President should so determine.

The actual operations of the wheat program were assigned to the Director for Mutual Security, who became Director of Foreign Operations Administration on August 1, 1953.

Twenty-Three Million Bushels

Just before Thanksgiving holiday, the S.S. Steel Chemist arrived in Karachi bearing the 349,000th long ton of American wheat sent by the Foreign Operations Administration under the Pakistan Wheat Aid Act. This shipment was the mid-point in the movement of the nearly twenty-three million bushels of United States wheat.

At one time as many as 28 ships were on the high seas carrying wheat to Pakistan. The ninety-fourth, and last, shipment arrived in May of



The U.S. shipped 612,000 long tons of surplus wheat to Pakistan in 1953 to help avert famine. A large part of the wheat was distributed free to the needy.

1954 bringing the total amount of wheat shipped up to 612,000 long tons. The Government of Pakistan announced that this amount was sufficient to meet the emergency. The value of the wheat shipped was \$68 million. The United States paid one-half of the shipping charge which amounted to approximately \$6 million. Of the ships that carried wheat to Pakistan, 56.9 per cent were of United States registry.

The shipments originated from the following areas of the United States: 33% from the Atlantic Coast; 59% from the Gulf ports and 8% from the Pacific Northwest.

Wheat was shipped from the United States in bulk and was bagged in the hold of the ship upon its arrival in Karachi by Pakistani workmen. The sacks of wheat were distributed via sealed railroad cars, trucks and even by camel to the remote villages.

About 67 per cent of the wheat shipped was hard winter wheat which is used in making *chappati*—a Pakistani “bread” staple. The remainder was soft wheat.

Free Distribution

The Wheat Aid Act provided that thirty per cent of the American wheat was to be distributed without cost to those who were unable to pay for

it. A system of free distributions to the needy was put into effect. In addition, wheat was issued to charitable organizations such as the Pakistan Red Cross and the Memon Relief Society to assist in the care of the aged, orphans and refugees.

Grow More Food Campaign

From the sale of the wheat, the Pakistan Government realized the equivalent of fifty million dollars in rupees. This fund was earmarked to support projects agreed upon by the United States and Pakistan Governments as necessary to the development of the country. Emphasis was put upon projects designed to provide against a recurrence of this last famine threat. The Pakistan "Grow-More-Food" campaign included the improvement of agricultural practices, the expansion of irrigation facilities, the introduction of improved varieties of seed and the use of fertilizer.

The central Government allocated twenty million rupees, equivalent to about seven million U.S. dollars, to provincial governments to finance work-relief on various kinds of development projects.

Hoarding and Speculation

In addition to the main objective of the emergency wheat program—to alleviate Pakistan's food crisis—the program was aimed at preventing large-scale hoarding and speculation which were boosting basic food prices and starting an inflationary spiral in Pakistan's already precarious economy.

Both objectives were accomplished.

The Ambassador of Pakistan stated that millions of his people were saved from starvation by the American wheat. In addition, simultaneously with the arrival of the first relief shipment in late July, 1953, the official price of wheat in Pakistan was lowered. Quantities of local wheat, probably being hoarded after the two consecutive drought seasons, found their way into the nation's food markets.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #2

FOOD TO EAST BERLIN

East Germany Food Relief Packages Moving at Rate of 200,000 per Day

"On July 27, 1953, the Berlin Senate and the Federal German Government, inspired by President Eisenhower's offer of food for East Germany, initiated in West Berlin a program for distributing food free of charge to residents of the Soviet Zone of Germany. Anyone from those areas was eligible to receive one food package for himself and additional food packages for members of his family and for his friends providing he brought with him their personal identity cards. Each package contained flour, lard, condensed or powdered milk and dried vegetables."

News Release
August 7, 1953

Soviet State Food Reserves

It became clear during the early part of 1953 that various Communist policies such as the building up of state food reserves and the penalizing of independent farmers were resulting in serious food shortages and exorbitant food prices in East Germany. The uprisings of June 17, 1953, showed the extent of the feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction of those people.

Soviet Refusal

On July 4, 1953, Chancellor Adenauer, in a letter to the President of the United States, described the concern of the Federal Republic of Germany over the food situation of the German people in the Soviet Zone and East Berlin. The Chancellor expressed the hope that the United States would participate with the Federal Republic in making funds available for food supplies to be sent to the Soviet-occupied areas to protect the population from hunger.

On July 10, the President replied that the U.S. would join immediately in furnishing needed food to the hungry people of East Germany. At the same time, he offered to the Soviet Union, as the occupying power, for distribution, food shipments made up of items of high nutritional value.

On July 11, the Soviet Government rejected this proposal. On the same day, the President announced that the offer of food to the German people, in their distressed situation, would stand.

\$15 Million for Food

The President authorized \$15,000,000 in Foreign Operations Administration funds for the purchase of foodstuffs to be packaged and distributed free of charge to East Germans.

The Department of Agriculture acted as procurement agency for the foodstuffs, practically all of which were obtained direct from American commercial firms. The shipments included 23,582,047 pounds of butter and fats, 29,626,765 pounds of flour, 6,598,338 pounds of peas and beans, 14,766,410 pounds of cottonseed oil and 17,568,430 pounds of soybean oil. The total cost of the food was \$14,077,000 while the overseas freight bill amounted to approximately \$1 million.

Late in July the first consignment of American food arrived in Germany. Other shipments quickly followed.

The Federal Government of Germany accepted responsibility for distributing the food and carried the domestic costs of handling.

On the first day of the program 103,743 packages were issued in West Berlin, and by the third day over 200,000 were being issued daily.



East Germans que-ing up outside one of the West Berlin food distribution centers disregarding the Communist ban on accepting food from the West. These people found ways and means of reaching Berlin, sometimes travelling as far as a hundred miles to get there. Nearly 5½ million food packages—gifts of the people of the United States—were distributed.

Eyewitness Account

"A vast number of persons, not only from the Eastern sector of Berlin but deep in the Eastern Zone, have appeared in person to apply for food. At four distribution centers, I saw between 8,000 and 15,000 people lined up 10 to 12 abreast awaiting their turns. Many had to remain from 8 to 14 hours and some were put up overnight because they could not be served on the day of their arrival.

"No matter where one turns in Berlin one sees the streets swarming with miserably dressed people carrying suitcases, crates, haversacks and paper boxes filled with food. As late as 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning, groups heavily laden with food are on the streets of West Berlin waiting transportation back to East Germany."

Communist Measures

From the beginning, Communist authorities attacked the program claiming it was propaganda of the crassest type and a scheme on the part of Western "imperialists" to recruit saboteurs and agents for criminal activities in East Germany. Initially, however, they took no effective measures to stop East Germans and East Berliners from going to West Berlin to obtain the food.

Then, somewhat hesitantly at first, when the Communists saw the rush for food packages, they commenced taking measures to stop it. These efforts culminated on the 7th day when Eastern authorities prohibited, throughout the Soviet Zone, the sale of railway tickets to Berlin and decreed that anyone who turned over his identity card to another person or who had in his possession another person's identity card was liable to a fine of up to 140 marks.

While these and other Communist harassments, including widespread confiscation of parcels, reduced the influx, in a little over two months more than five and a half million parcels containing nearly 18,000 tons of food had been distributed, and it was estimated that nearly one-sixth of all Germans under Soviet domination had directly benefitted.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #3

KOREA—SPECIAL AID

FOA Allots \$200 Million For Korean Aid Program

"In recognition of the urgent need of the Korean people for the food and fiber necessary to the reconstruction of their war-torn economy . . . the action of Congress in appropriating \$200 million for the operation of this program reflects the earnest desire of all Americans that every possible step be taken to aid our valiant friends and allies in binding their wounds of war."

Harold E. Stassen, Director
Foreign Operations Administration

War Damage

Three years of bitter warfare inflicted enormous damage on the Korean economy and brought intense suffering to the Korean people. Some 600,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. Nearly half of the country's public utilities were wiped out; three out of every five bridges were damaged. Even today (May 1955) one out of every eight persons is still a refugee, and one out of every five is still in need of some form of assistance.

Interim Emergency Aid

Immediately after the suspension of hostilities in mid-1953, the United States took the lead in assisting the valiant Korean people to rebuild their devastated country.

On July 27, 1953, the President asked Congress for \$200 million for emergency aid to be used for the rehabilitation and economic support of the Republic of Korea. On August 7, the Congress approved, for this purpose, the transfer of the \$200 million from the Department of Defense to the Foreign Operations Administration.

Four days later rice, barley and cotton left the ports of Houston and San Francisco bound for Pusan Harbor. In the next fifteen days, five more ships left with aid supplies.

Assistance Programs

In 1954, the United States set aside \$297.4 million for economic aid to Korea—\$200 million for the Foreign Operations Administration economic development programs, \$65.2 million for Department of Defense relief and rehabilitation activities, \$23.2 million toward the United Nations

Korean Reconstruction Agency program, and \$9 million for relief packages.

About \$100 million was assigned for such capital projects as reconstruction of the railroad system, construction of new electric power facilities, road building and industrial manufacture of critically needed materials.

A new fertilizer plant, for which some \$23 million was allocated, will produce 250 metric tons of nitrogenous fertilizer per operating day and save Korea more than \$15 million annually in foreign exchange.

Raw materials imports, which were financed in the amount of about \$100 million, comprise another form of assistance. Imports of basic supplies—which include rubber, cotton, fuel, lumber and fertilizer—will accelerate domestic output and help to reduce the heavy inflationary pressures generated by over-all supply shortages.

In fiscal year 1955, Congress made available \$221 million for the defense support program in Korea and \$19 million as the U.S. contribution to the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency.

An additional \$40 million was transferred from other appropriations to the Korean Program for unforeseen emergency needs.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #4

GREECE—EARTHQUAKE

Greece Receives Housing Materials To Aid Repair of Earthquake Damage

"Supporting a Greek Government project to rebuild the three Ionian Islands devastated by earthquakes, August 1953, the Foreign Operations Administration announced that it is making the equivalent of \$5 million available for the purchase of housing materials."

News Release
July 2, 1954

Disaster

A series of disastrous earthquakes—the worst in Greek history—virtually levelled the fabled islands of Cephalonia, Zante and Ithaca off the



The Foreign Operations Administration made the equivalent of \$5 million available to assist in the rebuilding of three Greek islands devastated by earthquakes in 1953.

west coast of Greece on the 11th and 12th of August, 1953. Entire cities were wiped out. Around 500 people were killed and over 800 injured. More than 25,000 homes were destroyed and an estimated 87,000 people were left homeless.

U.S. Navy and Air Force units, along with other nations and private relief agencies, rushed in emergency supplies and materials. Tents were thrown up to house the homeless and, later, other forms of temporary housing were developed while the Government studied the staggering problem of reconstruction.

Millions Authorized

Use of \$4 million was authorized by Foreign Operations Administration. Approximately \$1 million in Finnish marks was also authorized by FOA to Greece as the basis for negotiations for the purchase of lumber and wood products in Finland. The Finnmarks had been received by the U.S. in payment for surplus U.S. agricultural commodities sold to Finland.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #5

IRAN—ECONOMIC CRISIS

\$60 Million For Iran

"The Foreign Operations Administration announced today a \$9 million allotment to Iran bringing to \$60 million the total special U.S. economic assistance to that country."

News Release
May 12, 1954

Economic Catastrophe

In August 1953, the Government of Iran faced economic catastrophe. The National Front Party with Mossedegh at its head had ruined the country's economy by deficit financing; borrowing without backing, issuing notes without security; in a period of non-revenue. The Iranian treasury was virtually without foreign exchange, the Government was deeply in debt, consumer goods were in short supply and prices were rising rapidly. Rial notes had disappeared in such numbers, hoarding being so widespread, banks could not cash government salary checks.

After January of 1953, no serious efforts had yet been made to resolve the oil question and economic and political deterioration accelerated. The Senate was disbanded. After a bitter struggle the Shah-in-Shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlevi, left the country, designating General Fazolla Zahedi as Prime Minister. The General led the coup d'etat from which, after a week of wild disorder, he emerged as Prime Minister and the Shah returned as Monarch. The Special Assistance Program was born in the relative calm that followed.

First Grant

An exchange of letters between General Zahedi and the President of the U.S. led to a request for help and a generous response.

The revolution took place on August 19 and within a few days thereafter the President announced the first grant of \$45 million to Iran with a statement that the money was being supplied to enable the Government of Iran to meet the costs of essential operations. An additional \$6 million was given before the end of the year and then, a few months later, \$9 million more was made available to assist Iran until she could obtain other revenue.

Common Border

Iran, which has some 1,200 miles of common border with Soviet Russia, embraces 628,000 square miles and has a population estimated at 19,-

140,000, a large percentage of which is rural. It is essential to the free world that Iran be helped to preserve her freedom.

Essential Supplies

The Foreign Operations Administration took immediate steps to finance \$10 million worth of Iranian imports of certain needed essentials such as foodstuffs, drugs, cement, iron and steel products and repair parts. Twelve million dollars was used to buy 100,000 tons of sugar, since Iran's annual sugar reserves were nearly 130,000 tons below its need.

Double Duty

The Special Assistance Program funds did at least double duty in helping stabilize the economy of Iran. Many of the dollars were first used for the purchase abroad of goods in short supply in Iran, which were then sold in Iran for rials. Other dollars were sold to Iranian importers as foreign exchange. The rials thus obtained were then used to meet essential expenses of the Government.

Later, once the country's economy had been placed on a more stable basis, a percentage of the rials were placed in a special fund which financed 43 public works projects among which were low-cost housing projects, highway construction, building of schools and hospitals, water supply and railroad equipment.

These projects, located throughout Iran, supplied work for thousands of Iranians who only a few months before had lacked employment.

Stabilizing Factor

It is conceded that United States Emergency Aid helped save the finances of the Iranian Government and of the Bank Melli (the National Bank of Iran) and to stabilize the value of the rial.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #6

JORDAN FAMINE

10,000 Tons of Wheat Being Loaded In Philadelphia for Jordan Relief

"Loading of the 10,000 tons of hard spring wheat destined for Jordan under the Famine Relief Act is under way in Philadelphia, the Foreign Operations Administration reported today. Carrying the shipment is the S. S. Albion, which is expected to depart late Wednesday or early Thursday. The wheat is from stocks of the Commodity Credit Corporation."

News Release

Nov. 2, 1953

Crop Failure

In the early part of August, 1953, when it became certain that the crop in a large area of South Jordan and Hebron farmlands had failed completely, the Jordan Government requested aid from the United States.

President Eisenhower granted the aid on September 2, 1953, and an agreement between the United States and Jordan was signed on October 20, 1953. The President designated the Foreign Operations Administration to carry out the operations.

The 10,000 tons of wheat were shipped to *Aqaba*. The cost to the United States of this emergency program was \$1,250,000. This aid was extended under provisions of Public Law 216, approved in 1953, which authorized the President to use stocks of surplus commodities held by the CCC to assist friendly peoples in meeting famine or other urgent requirements.

The wheat was bagged in the hold of the ship, lightered ashore at the port of *Aqaba* upon arrival, and shipped by truck to distribution points deep within the famine areas of Jordan.

Free Distribution

Inasmuch as many farmers of Jordan's famine area were still heavily in debt from a 1951 drought, the agreement provided for free distribution of the wheat to destitute and unemployed persons. Some distribution of the free wheat was made in Foreign Operations Administration trucks loaned to the Ministries of Interior and Economy of Jordan. The trucks were marked with the U.S. insignia. Approximately 250,000 people benefitted from the free distribution.

Public Works Projects

Funds accruing to the Jordan Government from the sale, at the lowest possible price, of the balance of the wheat were deposited in a special account for public works projects and other activities in conjunction with the Foreign Operations Administration, for the benefit of the people of Jordan. A portion of the funds went to defray the expenses of the distribution of the free wheat.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #7

BOLIVIA—ECONOMIC

First Bolivian Wheat Shipment Will Leave Houston Wednesday

"Two thousand tons of wheat will be shipped from Houston, Texas, next Wednesday, marking the beginning of the United States \$9 million emergency assistance for Bolivia, the Foreign Operations Administration announced today. This is the first such special economic effort undertaken by the United States in any country of the Western Hemisphere."

News Release
November 22, 1953

One-product Economy

Bolivia is exposed to the dangers inherent in a one-product economy, since exports of tin account for about 60 per cent of the country's total exports—and approximately 97 per cent of the country's income. The major portion of the country's food requirements, as well as a sizeable volume of other essential commodities and equipment, must be imported and the price of tin in the world market determines the amount of exchange available to Bolivia to satisfy those essential needs of its economy. When the price of tin falls, the amount of exchange shrinks and the needs of the country cannot be satisfied.

Economic Crisis

During 1953, a sharp decline in the world price of tin precipitated a serious economic crisis. Since the Bolivian Government had virtually no financial reserves, extraordinary assistance was urgently needed to cover foreign exchange costs of essential imports, primarily agricultural commodities.

On October 5, 1953, the President authorized, under Public Law 216, assistance to Bolivia in the amount of \$5 million worth of surplus agricultural commodities. The Bolivian Government indicated that its most urgent need was for wheat and flour, and it was agreed that the entire \$5 million grant would be used for these commodities.

In November 1953, the Foreign Operations Administration authorized the first transfer of 3,000 tons of wheat from the stocks of the Commodity Credit Corporation for shipment in November and December. Another authorization followed for 42,000 tons of wheat, of which

half was milled into flour in the United States. Shipments were scheduled at the rate of 4,000 tons of wheat and 3,000 tons of flour a month.

Ocean Transportation

In addition to the \$5 million worth of wheat, the President authorized up to \$4 million of economic and defense support funds to furnish urgent economic assistance to Bolivia. A portion of these funds was used to cover costs of ocean transportation and miscellaneous handling charges of the wheat and wheat flour and approximately \$1.7 million was used for cotton, lard and cottonseed oil.

Expanded Program

An additional \$2 million was added for an expanded food production program bringing the total cost of 72,000 tons of surplus wheat, granted to Bolivia under Public Law 216, up to \$7,562,000. Freight costs of these shipments totaled \$1.4 million.

President Eisenhower has seen fit to continue this emergency aid program to Bolivia and surplus commodities obligated through March 31, 1955, amounted to \$8,700,000. This food comes from the stocks of the Commodity Credit Corporation under Title II of Public Law 480. The freight costs of shipping these commodities, approximately \$1,066,000, will be paid for out of mutual security funds by the Foreign Operations Administration.

Also programmed is \$7 million to be used for supplies and equipment for development purposes and additional foodstuffs and fibers.

Development Projects

Commodities supplied to Bolivia under aid programs have been sold through normal marketing channels in that country. Local currency proceeds realized from sales have been set aside in special accounts and are being programmed for additional development projects jointly approved by Bolivia and the United States.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #8

KOREAN FIRES

Plea for Pusan Aid

"Adding to the already overwhelming misery in Korea, the refugee-packed city of Pusan recently suffered the greatest fire in its history. More than five thousand homes were destroyed, leaving thousands of sparsely clad and malnourished refugees without shelter. . . . Today, as we approach the Christmas season, I call upon all Americans to give generously to support our fine voluntary groups who now face this additional challenge and responsibility. . . ."

Statement by the President
December 11, 1953

First Fire

On the evening of November 27, 1953, the first, and most severe, of three raging fires swept through Pusan, the crowded port city of Korea.



Fires such as this have made countless thousands homeless. In Pusan one fire left 28,000 people homeless and destitute. U. S. Emergency Programs supplied these people with items of relief and rehabilitation.

The fire started in a house in the downtown area of Pusan where a charcoal burner had been left unattended on a straw matting floor. High winds spread the fire over approximately one-half square mile in the heart of downtown Pusan.

Over 28,000 people were left homeless and destitute. The post office, radio station and railroad depot were three of the twelve public buildings which had been destroyed by the time the fire was finally put out on the following day.

Relief Work

Temporary shelter, food and clothing was supplied by voluntary agencies and the United States and United Nations Armed Forces. Medical assistance was given and the work of rehabilitation started. Through December of 1954, two other fires damaged different parts of Pusan. In all cases, U.S. aid was given.

Rebuilding Program

In all three of the fires, the Foreign Operations Administration spent the better part of a million dollars in rehabilitation programs. Permanent and temporary housing was erected. Roads and bridges were built. Communications were mended and schools and other public buildings repaired or rebuilt.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #9

HONG KONG FIRE

On December 25, 1953—Christmas night—a fire started in a squatter settlement in the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. Flames, fanned by high winds, raced through the area of wooden shacks. Before the flames had been put under control, 60,000 people had been made homeless.

Emergency aid was required.

The Government of Hong Kong established feeding stations and temporary dwellings for the fire victims.

The United States, United Kingdom and the Holy See contributed funds for the erection of permanent, fireproof housing for the homeless. Acting for the United States, the Foreign Operations Administration set aside \$150,000 for this purpose.

Work on the desperately needed housing project was started immediately and in three to four months dwellings for the people made homeless by the fire had been completed.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #10

LIBYAN FAMINE

Drought Years

After two successive years of drought, Libya, in the late months of 1953, asked the United States for aid to prevent famine. The United States responded by sending 2,200 tons of wheat in January of 1954 valued at \$250,000. The transportation and the bags for the grain cost \$55,000. This grant was made under the provisions of Public Law 216.

The grain was distributed by the Libyan Government in areas where distress existed.

Continued Aid

Persistent drought and dust-laden wind storms continued to cause extensive damage to Libyan grain crops. In a few areas crop failure reached 70 per cent. Again, in April, 1954, the Libyan Government appealed to the United States for aid.

Representatives of the Foreign Operations Administration and specialists from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations made a survey of the situation. They estimated that about 30,000 tons of bread grains would be required to alleviate famine conditions and to prevent desperate farmers from exhausting their seed stocks for food. Determination was made that 6,000 tons of wheat were needed during the summer and the United States Government moved rapidly to provide the grain out of surplus U.S. stocks. The first shipment of wheat, 3,000 tons, arrived in Libya in July 1954.

Between Laws

This wheat grant, because it was needed at a time when Public Law 216 had expired and before the passage of Public Law 480, cost the Foreign Operations Administration, from its Fiscal Year 1954 funds, \$241,000 plus approximately \$56,000 for ocean freight and bags for the grain.

In September, under Title II of Public Law 480, the remaining 3,000 tons of wheat were shipped—their value was not to exceed \$350,000. The Foreign Operations Administration provided \$45,000 to cover transportation and the bags for the wheat.

Shortage Still Exists

On November 4, 1954, the Foreign Operations Administration announced approval of another grant of U.S. surplus wheat, 24,000 tons

this time, valued at \$2,900,000, to be shipped to Libya because of the severe shortage of food grains in that North African country.

When this last Libyan consignment is completed 1,200,000 bushels of U.S. surplus grain will have been shipped from American ports to aid distressed Libyans. Shipment this year has been at the rate of 3,000 tons, or about 110,000 bushels, a month. This wheat is still being shipped (June, 1955). Foreign Operations Administrations has borne the cost (approximately \$400,000) of transportation and bags.

Distribution

Within Libya the wheat is distributed free to the needy, the aged and the sick or as partial payment to workers on newly-instituted public works projects—about 42,000 persons up to date.

Distribution is financed and handled by the Libyan Public Development and Stabilization Agency.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #11

IRAQ FLOOD

FOA Flying Seeds to Iraq To Aid Spring Flood Damage

"An emergency shipment of six tons of garden seed for flood-stricken Iraq will leave tomorrow from Newark Airport by cargo plane."

News release
May 26, 1954

Record Flood Level

Unusually heavy rains in March, 1954, brought the worst Tigris River flood in the 46 years that flood levels have been recorded.

It has been estimated that some 3 million acres of land in the Tigris-Euphrates basin of Iraq were flooded; 500,000 people were displaced or made homeless; 10,000 houses washed away and, while there was little loss of human life, damage toll came to some \$250 million.



Vegetable seeds being distributed to flood-stricken farmers of Iraq. More than 25 tons of seed were supplied to the farmers through the Foreign Operations Administration.

One of the most serious losses was the Iraq farmers' spring planting. Their new crops were completely destroyed—washed away by the record flood.

First Installment

The emergency shipment of six tons of garden seed represented only the first installment of a 25 ton shipment by the Foreign Operations Administration to help the Iraqi farmers.

The 12,100 pounds of seed, bagged in 100 pound sacks, were transported by Foreign Operations Administration chartered planes. The shipment included cabbage, corn and watermelon seed—all principal cash crops and staple foods of Iraq.

The seeds were distributed, free of charge, through the collective efforts of the Foreign Operations Administration personnel in Iraq, the Iraq Ministry of Agriculture and the Iraq Development Board.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #12

VIETNAM EXODUS

703,119 Leave North Vietnam

"More than 700,000 people left the Communist area of North Vietnam in the first seven months after the Geneva accords were signed partitioning Vietnam at the 17th Parallel, the Foreign Operations Administration announced today."

News Release
March 29, 1955

Heroic Flight

Since the cease-fire agreement between the French Government and the Communist controlled Viet-Minh was signed at Geneva on July 21, 1954, a great human drama has unfurled in Vietnam. The exodus of hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese fleeing before Communism constitutes one of the most heroic episodes in the history of Vietnam and one of the most important mass migrations that the world has known in recent times.

The official evacuation figures, as of April 15, 1955, received by the Foreign Operations Administration from its U.S. Operations Mission in Saigon, put the total of evacuees at approximately 800,000. More than half a million were Vietnamese civilians; 55,146 were Vietnamese troops; 75,970 were French troops and 36,088 were French civilians.

Operation Exodus

Operation Exodus started after the cease-fire agreement of July 21, 1954, when Vietnam was divided at the 17th Parallel with the Communists in control above the line. Under the terms of the accords, residents of Vietnam were entitled to move into the area of their choice until May 19, 1955. This date was later extended by one month.

Staging Areas

Those Vietnamese who decided to move out of the Communist area came to staging areas in Hanoi, Haiduong and Haiphong from the provinces. They travelled by railroad, truck, bus and on foot. By August 20, approximately 132,500 refugees had crowded into the areas—70,000 in Hanoi, 17,500 in Haiduong and 45,000 in Haiphong. Two thousand were being cared for in a camp set up by a French Moroccan battalion; tents to house 7,000 had been forwarded by the FOA Mission in Saigon. Other refugees were sheltered in schools, churches, even in the Opera



North Vietnamese refugees debarking from a ship of the United States fleet in Saigon. Approximately 800,000 people have thus far fled from the Communist-held north.

House in Hanoi. City sidewalks were jammed with refugees and their possessions.

The crowded and unsanitary conditions that existed were a constant health threat. Technicians from the Health and Sanitation Division of the United States Operations Mission gave assistance to local doctors and an epidemic was averted.

Ships and Planes

French military and civilian transport planes carried 3,000 refugees a day from the staging areas to Saigon. Weather permitting, one airplane took off every ten minutes, eight hours a day. Between August 8 and September 16, 1954, these planes made 2,088 round trips between Hanoi and Saigon.

Task Force 90 of the U.S. Navy began its evacuee-lift with forty-one

troop and cargo ships and 10 miscellaneous support vessels. Every day for more than a month at least one and sometimes two American ships brought 2,000 refugees each into Saigon or Cap-St.-Jacques. In little over a month the Navy had carried its one hundred thousandth refugee to freedom.

Relief

The Foreign Operations Administration, at the direction of the President, provided \$45 million to help the Vietnamese Government carry out a program of relief and resettlement for the refugees.

The Foreign Operations Administration furnished relief specialists, housing materials, seed and simple farm tools as well as 5,000 tons of surplus commodities valued at \$800,000. It furnished Quonset huts for schools and dispensaries, trucks, jeeps, blankets, cotton cloth, water pumps and lifters, in addition to 10,000 tents.

In August 1954, the United States and Vietnam signed a voluntary aid agreement which made it possible for six American voluntary agencies, who had established services and programs of relief in Vietnam, to obtain duty-free entry on relief supplies into Vietnam, with inland transportation costs to be paid by the Vietnamese Government. This agreement made it possible for the U.S. Government to reimburse the voluntary agencies on their relief shipments.

Voluntary Agencies since last September have shipped seven million pounds of relief supplies to Vietnam, valued at \$4,050,000 for which the Foreign Operations Administration has paid \$27,000 in ocean freight. Of the total shipments sent by all agencies to Vietnam, nearly five million pounds were surplus foods made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These were valued at \$1,050,000.

About \$3,000,000 was collected and sent to Indochina by the U.S. voluntary agencies through appeals for voluntary contributions.

Resettlement

Upon arrival in Saigon, refugees were taken by truck to one of 42 reception centers, to await resettlement. An estimated 400,000 have been put on resettlement sites. They are being settled in some 200 villages which have been built from the ground up; schools, houses, dispensaries, markets and wells.

With its Foreign Operations Administration teams of specialists in Public Health, Agriculture, Education, Public Works, Community Development and Economics, the U.S. Operations Mission in Saigon provided, without reservation, material assistance and knowledge to help the Vietnamese Government survive an emergency that has not yet passed.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #13

DANUBE FLOOD

First U.S. Flood Relief Cargo Leaves Philadelphia for Austria

"The first United States relief cargo for victims of this summer's Danube River floods left Philadelphia today."

News Release
September 8, 1954

Summer Floods

In July 1954, raging floods in the Danube Basin of Europe destroyed or damaged large quantities of corn and wheat ripening in the fields and brought about a critical shortage of grain used for feeding livestock through the winter months.



This hospital in an Austrian city had to be partly evacuated when the Danube overflowed its banks in 1954. The U. S. made \$200,000 available to help cover the cost of the medical supplies needed in this area for flood relief.

Food crops were also destroyed thereby further reducing a supply which was already meager. Conditions of severe hardship were created among the peoples of that area.

Flood Relief

On July 29, 1954, President Eisenhower offered American assistance for the relief of the victims of the floods in the Danube River Basin. His offer was not limited to the Danube Valley but included East Germany and the valleys of the rivers that flow into the Baltic and North Seas.

The offer of aid was extended to East and West Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Rumania. Acceptances of the President's offer began to reach the Department of State on August 6, 1954, and continued over the following few weeks.

Surplus Foods

The Foreign Operations Administration, under Title II of Public Law 480, supplied over \$10 million worth of surplus agricultural products to the stricken countries. The value of the surplus commodities granted each country was as follows:

Austria	\$1,900,000
West Germany	1,038,000
Yugoslavia	2,195,000
East Germany	726,000
Hungary	2,694,000
Czechoslovakia	1,700,000

Distribution

The food and feedstuffs, bagged and marked "Gift of the American People," were distributed (except in Austria where the Austrian government handled the distribution) through the offices of the League of Red Cross Societies, an organization acceptable to all of the disaster countries including those behind the Iron Curtain.

The Red Cross Societies in each country, through their chapters, using local help and facilities in the towns and villages of the flood areas, delivered the gifts to the farmers and other victims of the flood.

Medical Supplies

In addition to the agricultural products, \$200,000 was made available to cover the cost of the medical supplies needed for flood relief in the Danube area. Funds to cover the estimated \$1,600,000 cost of ocean transportation were provided under the Mutual Security Act of 1954.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #14

EAST PAKISTAN FLOOD

U.S. Begins Emergency Program For Relief of Flood-Stricken East Pakistan

"Word was received from Karachi on August 7, 1954, of the disastrous floods in East Pakistan where more than seven million persons were affected by the overflow of the Brahmaputra, the Tista and the Meghna rivers, swollen by the incessant rains of the monsoon season. The floods spread destruction through more than 15,000 square miles. The hardest hit areas were Rangpur, Mymensingh, Bogra, Pabna, Faridpur, Tippera, Dacca and Noakhali. The area between Bogra and Mymensingh was laid waste for fifteen miles on either side of the river—roadways were cut away, houses and crops disappeared beneath the waters and rivers were made unnavigable when channels disappeared beneath the high waters."

**News Release
August 15, 1954**

Request Aid

Aid in the form of drugs and medicines, food and cloth was requested from the United States by the Pakistan Government on August 7, 1954.

A meeting was held at the Foreign Operations Administration in Washington on August 12, 1954, and an agreement was reached to proceed on an emergency basis. The results of that meeting are unparalleled in the history of relief. Never before has a government moved so swiftly in coming to the aid of a foreign country.

By nightfall, August 12, Foreign Operations Administration's Health and Sanitation staff had procured and had placed in a position for air shipment medical supplies including serums and sulphadiazine drugs, anti-malaria tablets to prevent mass outbreak of disease, and chlorine powder for water purification.

Two United States Air Force C-54's departed on August 13, arriving in Dacca on the 15th of August. A special plane carrying vaccine ampules arrived in Dacca on the 16th. Another plane left the United States on the 16th, stopped to pick up additional medical supplies in Scotland, and proceeded to Dacca.

The planes carried nearly 60,000 pounds of needed medical supplies to East Pakistan.

On the joint recommendation of the Department of Defense and the Foreign Operations Administration, the U.S. Public Health Service was



An American relief worker distributes milk in East Pakistan where the floods of 1954 caused great suffering. The U. S. shipped more than 2,500 tons of surplus food to help ease the food shortage.

requested, on August 12th, to supply a top disaster relief expert and a small team of specialists. The Army was requested to supply forty two-men medical teams.

Relief Plan

A unified flood relief plan was organized under the direction of the Governor of East Pakistan and included the East Bengal Health staff, Pakistan Army Medical units, American medical teams, international health units and all private and voluntary organizations working in that area.

Forty combined Pakistan-American medical teams began mass vaccinations on August 21st and in 34 days inoculated over one million people. Pakistan women volunteers distributed medical kits and inoculated countless thousands of people whose religion forbids them to be touched by foreigners.

The medical corpsmen were accompanied by jeeps, trailers, dusting and delousing machines, as well as thousands of pounds of medical supplies.

Material Assistance

The Foreign Operations Administration approved \$5,500,000 for medical and other supplies furnished under the flood relief program. Over 2,500 metric tons of agricultural surplus items; cottonseed oil, milk solids and butter oil, were shipped under Title II of Public Law 480. These items amounted to \$2,709,000.

The textiles, cottons, saris and yarn shipped to Pakistan amounted to \$1,447,257.

The value of the clothing, pesticides, machines and medicines amounted to approximately \$1,000,000. Transportation charges for these relief goods, including transportation for doctors and medical teams, amounted to approximately \$300,000.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #15

NEPAL FLOOD AND EARTHQUAKE

FOA Assisting Nepal To Meet Flood, Earthquake Emergency

"A program to alleviate suffering among the stricken people of Nepal, in South Asia, where recent floods combined with an earthquake left approximately 1,000 dead, more than 132,000 homeless and destroyed 123,000 acres of crops, was announced today by the Foreign Operations Administration."

News Release
September 27, 1954

Nepal Requests Aid

In the first week of September, 1954, at the height of the flood, the King of Nepal requested aid from the U.S. for flood sufferers in his kingdom.

The Foreign Operations Administration authorized an emergency expenditure of \$75,000 for the purchase of such badly-needed supplies as vaccines and antibiotics, for protection against water-borne diseases.

Hospitals Flooded

The flood disaster was described as the worst to hit that isolated country in the last 50 years—whole villages were inundated and more than 2,000 miles of roads and byways were damaged. Fifty-six bridges were either destroyed, washed away or seriously damaged. Large areas of farmland were rendered unusable by the flood waters—in some cases for as long as two to three years. Several hospitals were so flooded that the keeping of patients indoors was no longer possible. The Government of Nepal estimated total loss from floods at approximately \$15,000,000.

Air Survey

Due to the lack of communications facilities in Nepal, which lies between India and Tibet, air reconnaissance of the disaster areas was authorized for an on-the-spot survey made by a U.S. Public Health Service official.

As a result of that survey, the United States provided Nepal with up to \$2,000,000 for a full-scale relief program. An agreement between the Nepalese Government and the Foreign Operations Administration established a Nepalese-American Cooperative Disaster Relief Program to administer the funds.

Under this joint agreement aid was given to rebuild roadways and bridges so that machinery might be brought in to enable the flood refugees to restore their farmlands and to plant their spring crops. The Foreign Operations Administration allotted \$1,675,000 for the purchase of equipment and supplies. Such essential needs as salt, sugar, medicines, dressings, powdered milk and canned goods, blankets and clothing were procured. Approximately 200,000 people benefitted from this aid.

The Department of Agriculture made available \$210,000 worth of surplus wheat which was distributed free of charge to those who had suffered from the flood. The Foreign Operations Administration made available to the Government of Nepal \$125,000 for the purchase of petroleum, oils and lubricants which were used for the maintenance and upkeep of road building machinery.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #16

HONDURAS FLOOD

Banana Crop Destroyed

The worst flood in recent Honduran history crested on September 29, 1954, leaving an approximate 20,000 people in distress.

The flood waters covered plantations, roads, machinery, railroads, dwellings, dikes, buildings and cattle. In some places the fields and buildings were covered with as much as fifteen feet of floodwater. People found clinging to trees and stranded on rooftops were rescued by boat.

Heavy rainfall and high tides blown inland by hurricane winds caused floods along the coast and in the valleys of the *Ulúa* and *Chamelecon* rivers.

In these valleys, covering an area approximately 20 miles by 50 miles, are located most of the banana *fincas* in Honduras. These plantations were particularly hard hit. The banana crop was almost completely destroyed. It was estimated that the banana export for 1954 would be cut 90%.

Large herds of cattle were drowned and many buildings completely ruined.

On October 20, 1954, a Council for the Coordination of the Sula Valley Rehabilitation Program, was created to centralize the direction of relief and rehabilitation operations by the Government of Honduras.

Economic Crisis

The economy of Honduras was severely weakened by this disaster. The loss of the banana crop meant an enormous loss in taxes, and the financial demand made upon the government for aid to the suffering people was a heavy drain on the treasury.

Aid Required

It became necessary for the Government of Honduras to ask the United States for emergency aid. This was granted and, under Title II of Public Law 480, surplus grain; beans, corn and rice; with a total value of \$230,000, were shipped from the United States to Honduras. The ocean freight bill of \$24,000 was paid by the Foreign Operations Administration.

The grain was distributed free to farmers by the Government of Honduras.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #17

HAITI HURRICANE

FOA Rushes Food by Airlift To Hurricane Stricken Haiti

"The Foreign Operations Administration has rushed 462,700 pounds of food by air to Haiti in 10 days of relief operations since that Caribbean republic was struck by the fury of Hurricane Hazel."

News Release
October 25, 1954

Thousands Made Homeless

Hurricane Hazel struck Haiti early in the evening of October 11, 1954, and finished its work of destruction by noon of October 12. Heavy rainfall followed in its wake, swelling most of the rivers to flood stage and inundating the surrounding lowlands. Western Haiti was devastated. Over 100,000 people were made homeless and 250 people lost their lives



The village of Del Marie, Haiti, after being swept by the worst hurricane in many years. The United States rushed 462,700 pounds of food to this island for the relief of those who suffered from the storm.

as a result of the storm. An additional 100 people lost their lives in a landslide brought about by the storm.

Request for Aid

The Haitian Government requested emergency aid from the U.S. Ambassador and the following day President Eisenhower invited the Haitian President to submit his request.

A formal request was submitted and the first shipments of the humanitarian airlift were in the air Friday evening, October 15, while the violent storm was still lashing the east coast of the United States itself.

This was the first of 30 cargo flights which carried to the stricken people of Haiti, by the fastest possible means, 86,000 pounds of wheat flour from Dallas, 21,300 pounds of dried milk from Richmond, 99,500 pounds of dried beans from Denver, 42,900 pounds of cornmeal from Kansas City, 188,300 pounds of rice from New Orleans and 24,700 pounds of cooking oil from Boston.

The first of an additional 13 million pounds of the same foodstuffs left for Haiti from Houston by ship on October 24. Two more shiploads left Houston the same week.

Terrain Makes Distribution Difficult

In Haiti the staff of the United States Operation Mission (FOA) devoted its entire time to relief work. They worked closely with the Haiti Government, with the personnel from the Red Cross—which provided most of the medical supplies—and with the Haitian Army which had charge of the distribution facilities.

The food was distributed by workers on foot, on horse and mule back, by people in trucks and in airplanes. To carry food to even more remote areas, an ex-U.S. Navy landing ship was chartered by FOA to put food ashore on beaches inaccessible by other means.

Title II

The emergency program was carried out under the provisions of Title II of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (Public Law 480), which permits the President to grant government-held commodities to friendly peoples in meeting famine or other urgent relief requirements.

Through the Foreign Operations Administration the Department of Agriculture made available approximately \$2,000,000 worth of surplus foods. An additional \$1,490,000 was approved for the disaster programs; \$350,000 was set aside to pay for 1,249,600 pounds of crop seeds, insecticides, fungicides, light agricultural tools like hoes, machetes and scythes

and a limited quantity of fertilizer; \$750,000 was scheduled for rehabilitation, road repair and irrigation control; the balance of the money paid the freight bill.

Repayment Asked for Seeds

Although the relief program is a Foreign Operations Administration grant to the government of Haiti, individual Haitian farmers, except in cases of extreme hardship, were asked to repay the seeds, either in cash or kind, from succeeding harvests. Repaid seeds will be used as a rotating store of seeds, while cash for payment will be used to strengthen Haiti's agriculture, as mutually agreed upon by the two governments.

Distribution of the seeds and farm implements to the needy farmers was made by the joint Haitian-U.S. agriculture office, Inter-American Cooperative Service for Agricultural Production (SCIPA).

EMERGENCY PROGRAM #18

SARDINIA FEED SHORTAGE

In 1954, the island of Sardinia suffered a severe drought which caused a dangerous shortage of cattle feed. In answer to an urgent appeal from the Italian Government for aid to alleviate the distressed cattle-and-sheep farmers, the United States Government, through the Foreign Operations Administration, contributed 15,000 tons of corn for free distribution to the distressed Sardinian farmers.

Distribution started on January 4, 1955, and all breeders of cattle, sheep and goats received gifts of from one to three bags of feed, depending on the size of their herds. An estimated 166,666 bags were given out. Each bag contained 90 kilos of feed and was marked "Gift of the People of the USA."

The Italian Government paid the ocean freight charges and all other necessary transportation, handling and distribution costs.

The cost to the United States of the surplus food was \$1,250,000.